

Under this bill, a criminal who commits a violent crime against a pregnant mother will be charged with a second offense on behalf of the second victim, the unborn child.

My home State of Missouri, along with 23 other States across our Nation, already recognize that unborn children who are victims of crimes must be protected from the violent actions of criminals. This legislation will extend the same level of protection to all mothers and their unborn children which is currently afforded to the mothers and children of Missouri and half the States across our country.

Our vote today will send a clear message to the criminals around this Nation that the laws of this land will not tolerate the violent actions against the mothers and their unborn children and will hold criminals strictly accountable for their heinous crimes.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 503, Mr. Speaker.

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MORE MONEY NEEDED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for more money for our public schools. Our public schools desperately need increased funding as we prepare our students for the next generation for the 21st century. Schools must modernize facilities, provide better training and pay for teachers, reduce class size, and provide innovative learning experiences.

That is why I support the New Democrat's Three R's bill. This bill will increase education funding by \$35 billion over 5 years. Right now we only spend 7 percent of our Federal budget on education. That means that some of our most neediest schools are not getting enough funding. We need to do more for these schools, and we can.

Let us be honest here: We know that putting more money into the system is not going to solve all our problems. If our schools do the work and use this money to meet their goals, we will reward them with additional funding. But if they do not meet their goals after 3 years, there has to be accountability.

But there is a major difference in the way we approach funding in our schools and the way President Bush approaches it. While the President sends funding to the States without any direction, our approach is that we should send our Federal dollars back to our school districts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to give all of our schools the help they need by supporting the Three R's.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISTS DRIVING UP ENERGY COSTS

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, people all over this Nation are seeing their gas prices and utility bills go way up. Well, they can thank the environmental extremists, who have stopped or delayed almost every type of production in this Nation.

All over the country, small groups of elitist environmentalists protest every time anyone tries to drill for any oil, dig for any coal, cut any trees or produce any natural gas. This destroys jobs and drives up prices and really hurts the poor and working people the most.

Most of these environmentalists seem to come from wealthy families, and perhaps they do not realize or care how much they are hurting lower income people. Their rules and regulations drive small businesses and small farms out of business, and thus help the extremely big businesses who fund them.

But unless people want their gas and utility bills to go much, much higher, they had better start opposing the left wing socialism that is prevalent in much of the environmental movement today.

TRIBUTE TO LUTRELLE FLEMING PALMER

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a veteran journalist, a political organizer, a constituent, a neighbor, and a long-time friend, Mr. Lutrelle Fleming Palmer. He recently retired after 50 years of hard-fought and committed activism.

Since 1950, Lu Palmer has been using the power of the pen and the radio to relay firsthand accounts of the triumphs and struggles of African Americans.

As a newspaper reporter, mainstream columnist, and black radio commentator, Lu always did it his way. He frequently took unpopular stands on highly controversial issues. Courageously, he always did so in a very public manner, because for Lu, informing his people was a top priority.

In 1981, he began to organize the politically independent organization, Chicago Black United Communities, or CBUC. Once again, Lu's motivation was to inform and galvanize the black community. The visionary efforts of Lu and CBUC were so successful that he is credited with playing a pivotal role in producing Chicago's first African-American mayor, Mayor Harold Washington.

Lu Palmer's talents, vision, insight, independent spirit and love for his people

is commendable and should be recognized by this Congress.

So today, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the 50 year-career of the legendary Chicago radio and political activist, Mr. Lutrelle F. Palmer, Lu Palmer.

PROTECTING PREGNANT WOMEN AND UNBORN CHILDREN

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the House will today be taking up a very important piece of legislation, H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. It is a very carefully constructed bill which will fill a gap which presently exists in Federal law.

Right now, under Federal law it provides no additional punishment for criminals who commit an act of violence against pregnant women and kill or injure the unborn children that they might be carrying.

I want to commend the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) for his leadership in preparing this long overdue piece of legislation. Let us protect pregnant women in this Nation, and let us also protect the innocent unborn children that they are carrying.

THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

(Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, there are 42.6 million uninsured Americans. The critical care needs of this population, when met, is often provided by safety net hospitals. These institutions provide such care, often at a financial loss to the most needy among us.

Today the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) and I will introduce the Medicaid Safety Net Hospital Improvement Act of 2001. This bipartisan measure raises the floor for Federal Medicaid allotments to States for hospitals that serve the uninsured from 1 percent to 3 percent, alleviating some of the growing burden of providing uncompensated care to many of our Nation's uninsured.

The legislation provides a more level playing field by raising the amount of Federal funds to States that have been undercompensated and does not impact the Federal allotments to other States.

As Congress considers policies for improving health care access to America's uninsured, we must not abandon the safety net already in place. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting these critical hospitals and the vulnerable populations who depend on them.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

(Mr. BARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in recognition of National Victims' Rights Week. Presently the scales of justice are tilted against crime victims. For too long, victims of crime have gone unrecognized in our criminal justice system. Too often the victim is all but forgotten, left outside of the process. This is not right and must be changed.

Victims should not occupy the fringes of our criminal justice process. It was Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo who said: "Justice, though due of the accused, is due to the accuser also. The concept of fairness must not be strained until it is narrowed to a filament. We are to keep the balance true."

As we remember victims of crime this week, we see the filament Justice Cardozo spoke of becoming increasingly thin. Our current system is not fair to victims, and the time has come for us to balance the scales of justice.

Our Nation was founded on the principles of equal protection under the law and equal justice for all. It is not until our Constitution guarantees the rights of victims that the scales of justice will truly be balanced.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Without objection, and pursuant to section 127 of Public Law 97-377 (2 U.S.C. 88b-3), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the House of Representatives Page Board:

Mr. SHIMKUS of Illinois,
Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.
There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF FIRST FLIGHT CENTENNIAL FEDERAL ADVISORY BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to Section 12(b)(1) of the Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act (36 U.S.C. 143) and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following citizen of the United States to the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board:

Mr. Neil Armstrong, Lebanon, Ohio.
There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF JAMES MADISON COMMEMORATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 5(b)

of the James Madison Commemoration Commission Act (P.L. 106-550) the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following members on the part of the House to the James Madison Commemoration Advisory Committee:

Dr. Charles R. Kesler, Claremont, California,

Mr. Randy Wright, Richmond, Virginia.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 24, 2001.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for appointing me to serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

In keeping with the Democratic Caucus rules and Rules of the House that limit me to serving on no more than two full committees I am resigning from my seat on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Please notify me as to the disposition of this request. If you cannot reach me directly at 226-3787, please notify my Chief of Staff, Mark Brownell, at 225-2165.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

COLLIN C. PETERSON,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 503, UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT OF 2001

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 119 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 119

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 503) to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; (2) the further amendment printed in the Congressional Record pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII and numbered 1, if offered by Representative Lofgren of California or her designee, which shall be considered as read

and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the Committee on Rules met and granted a modified closed rule for H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. The rule provides that the amendment printed in the Committee on Rules report shall be considered as adopted.

The rule provides for 2 hours of general debate, equally divided and controlled between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule makes in order the amendment printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1, if offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) or her designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by a proponent and an opponent.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

This is a fair rule, which will permit a thorough discussion of all of the relevant issues. Indeed, after 2 hours of debate and consideration of a Democrat substitute amendment, we will be more than ready to vote on H.R. 503. This is not a complex issue.

Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 1996, Gregory Robbins, an Air Force enlisted man, wrapped his fist in a T-shirt and brutally beat his pregnant 18-year-old wife. Soon after, his young wife gave birth to a stillborn 8-month-old fetus. To their surprise and disappointment, the Air Force prosecutors concluded that, although they could charge Gregory Robbins with simple assault, they could not charge him in the death of the couple's child. Why? Because Federal murder laws do not recognize the unborn. A criminal can beat a pregnant woman in the stomach to kill the baby, and the law ignores her pregnancy.

This is not just an isolated problem. Three years ago in my hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina, Ruth Croston and her unborn child were brutally murdered by her estranged husband. The husband later was charged with domestic violence, but the prosecutors could do nothing about the dead child.

It is wrong, and it has to be stopped. Fortunately, 24 States have adopted